

Remarks

Applicants and the undersigned would like to thank the Examiner for her efforts in the examination of this application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. Specification

The Examiner has objected to the Specification on two grounds.

In response to the first, an amended Abstract is presented herewith on a separate, following page.

In response to the second, the first paragraph of the Specification has been amended above to incorporate the issued patent number of the parent case.

Therefore, these objections are believed to be met.

II. Claim Objection

The Examiner has objected to Claim 1.

In response, Claim 1 has been amended in line 17 to recite the set instead of "a set"].

Therefore, this objection is believed to be met.

III. Rejection of Claim 2 under 35 USC 112

The Examiner has rejected Claim 2 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

With regard to the first rejection, Claim 2 has been amended to provide more definite recitation. Specifically, lines 15-16 has been amended to recite that the first course in the

second database has “an achievable skill level greater than the possessed skill level”. This recitation provides antecedent basis for the subsequent verbiage of “if the first course achievable skill level”.

The second rejection is respectfully traversed, and is believed to have been addressed in the preceding Amendment. To repeat, the Examiner is respectfully requested to review the following table:

Course 1	Skill level achievable	2
	Prerequisite skill level	1
Course 2	Skill level achievable	3
	Prerequisite skill level	2

Assume that the Skill Level currently possessed by the user is 1, and the skill level desired to be possessed is 3. Course 1 is the first course, and has a prerequisite skill level less than or equal to the possessed skill level, namely, 1. Course 1 has an achievable skill level of 2, which is less than the desired skill level of 3; so a second course, Course 2, is located. Course 2 has a prerequisite skill level less than or equal to the first course achievable skill level, here, both equal to 2. Course 2 also has an achievable skill level (3) greater than the first course achievable skill level (2). By completing Courses 1 and 2, the user presumably can sequentially gain the desired skill level of 3 by getting to level 2 with Course 1 and then to level 3 with Course 2.

Therefore, Claim 2 is not believed indefinite on these grounds, and has not been amended in response thereto. Further, as Claim 2 has not been rejected on grounds of cited art, Claim 2 is believed allowable.

IV. Rejection of Claims 1 and 3 under 35 USC 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 3 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Ho et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,126,448).

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly point out that which Applicants regard as their invention. Specifically, the selecting step has been removed, retaining both clauses under the selecting step. An automatic linkage is created between a mapped course and a set of training interventions to be recommended to the user. In addition, the administrator is permitted to review of the mapped course(s), and can decide whether to select a mapped course for inclusion in the set of training interventions.

Ho does not teach or suggest the administrator's being able to review the linkages as taught in the Specification and recited in Claim 1; rather, "attributes" or key words of a document are compared with a "job position", and a "learning determinant" makes an automatic determination of "learning materials" to be presented to the user.

Therefore, it is believed that independent Claim 1, and Claim 3 dependent therefrom, are not anticipated by Ho.

V. Rejection of Claims 4-6 under 35 USC 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 4-6 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ho et al.

As these claims are indirectly dependent from Claim 1, these claims are also believed patentable over the cited art.

VI. Rejection of Claims 8 and 9 under 35 USC 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 8 and 9 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pellegrino et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,149,441).

From the body of the rejection, it is assumed that the Examiner has intended to reject Claims 8 and 9 over Ho in view of Pellegrino, and not over Pellegrino alone.

As these claims are dependent from Claim 1, believed allowable, Claims 8 and 9 are also believed to patentably define over the cited art.

VII. Allowable Claim 7

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication of the allowability of Claim 7.

Claim 7 has been rendered into independent form, incorporating the recitations of Claims 1, 3, and 4.

Therefore, Claim 7 is believed in condition for allowance.

Conclusions

Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments place this application in a condition for allowance, and passage to issue is respectfully solicited. The Applicants and the undersigned would like to again thank the Examiner for her efforts in the examination of this application and for reconsideration of the claims as amended in light of the arguments presented. If the further prosecution of the application can be facilitated through telephone

interview between the Examiner and the undersigned, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,



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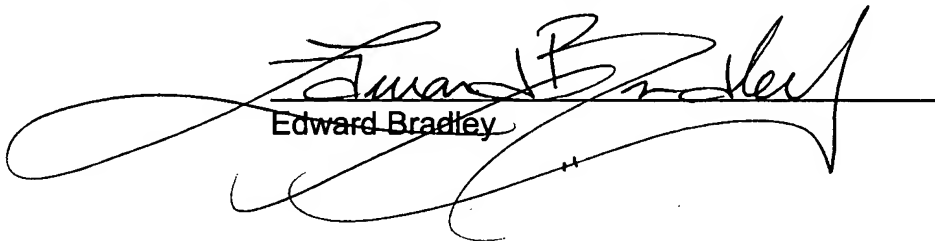
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the foregoing is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, this 5th day of April, 2004.


Edward Bradley